

# Crosscurrents

May 2012

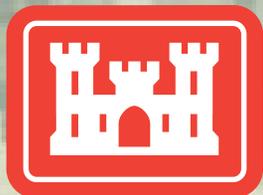
Serving the St. Paul District

**Park rangers  
promote water safety**

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**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
St. Paul District

**BUILDING STRONG®**

## On the Cover



St. Paul District Park Rangers Brad LaBadie, left, and Sara Bellefeuille hand out coloring books and frisbees during the St. Paul Saints home opener May 17 in St. Paul, Minn. The Corps was on hand to promote water safety and remind kids to wear their life jackets.

Photo by Patrick Moes

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Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format for all written copy and photos should be no smaller than a 5 x 7 at 300 dpi. All photographs appearing herein are by the St. Paul District Public Affairs Office unless otherwise accredited.

The mission of *Crosscurrents* is to support the commander's internal information program for the St. Paul District and its stakeholders.

*Crosscurrents* also serves as the commander's primary communication tool for accurately transmitting policies and command philosophy to the St. Paul District community and its customers.

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# Comments from the top

Team,

As I write this, Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick has become our 53rd Chief of Engineers. He will follow in the footsteps of many great engineers that have held the position before him, including Col. Richard Gridley, the first Chief Engineer whom was appointed by then Gen. George Washington; Col. Jonathan Williams, who served as the first superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.; Lt. Gen. Eugene Reybold, who helped the Corps expand its military construction mission during World War II; and Lt. Gen. John Morris, who convinced the Army to include the Corps of Engineers among its major commands.

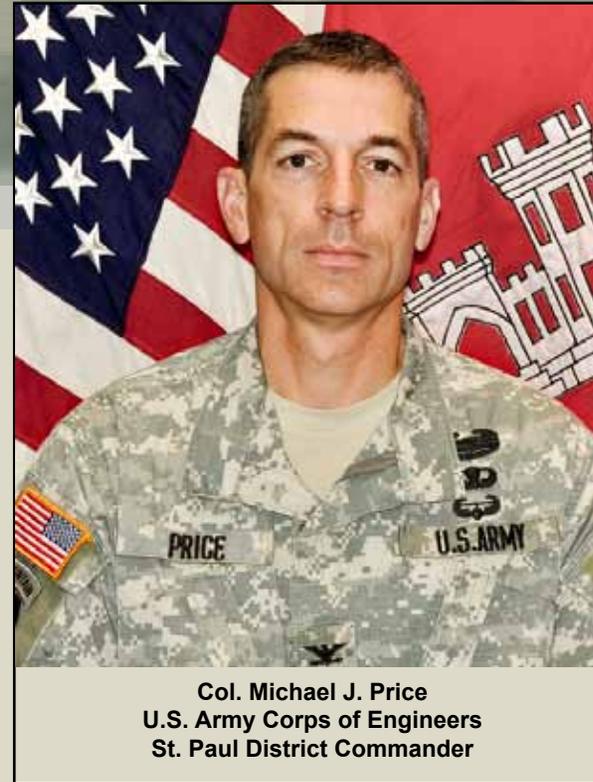
Bostick takes command of the Corps of Engineers at a time of tremendous pressure for change from within and outside the agency. The causes for change may be many, but the Corps is resilient; and with the great leadership of our Chief, the Corps will meet these challenges.

As the end of the school year approaches and the warmer weather invites us to enjoy the great outdoors, I want to remind everyone about safety. The district does a great job enforcing the Corps' safety requirements. The Corps' Comprehensive Safety and Health Requirements Manual, or EM 385-1-1, is the best safety resource for everything related to our missions and duties. It is also applicable to some of the activities many of us do in and around the house.

We've had a number of contractor accidents and a handful of employee accidents this year, and we are approaching our busiest construction season in the district's history. I ask everyone visiting or working on our construction sites to become very familiar with the contents of our [EM 385-1-1](#) and enforce it where appropriate.

Off-duty safety is also extremely important. The water is warming up, and many of you have already hit the lakes for some recreating. If you are boating, please check the safety equipment on your vessel. Also, it's a good idea to review the lakes you will be using. We had a dry winter and pretty dry spring, so many Minnesota lake levels are down, which may expose underwater hazards. Finally, wear your personal floatation device, or life jacket. Our park rangers spend a lot of time educating the public about water safety. Take their advice and wear it.

You have probably seen more motorcycles on the road this past month as well. May is Motorcycle Safety Month for the Army. If you



Col. Michael J. Price  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
St. Paul District Commander

are a rider, do the right thing and review the safe rider techniques and make a commitment to ride safely; inspect your motorcycle and perform the required maintenance; and, finally, wear your personal protective equipment, or PPE. So far this year, 25 Soldiers have died riding motorcycles; and if you look at the causes, they boil down to excessive speed and a lack of PPE. For everyone

else, keep an eye out for riders and give them space ... Share the road.

There are numerous other activities we do off-duty that have risk whether that is hiking, climbing, horseback riding or landscaping. Review each activity. Always have a plan and always use the proper equipment. An off-duty injury or accident can impact your ability to execute our missions. The district remains busy across all business lines, and it is our dedicated professional workforce that has set very high standards for executing. We need everyone to continue that excellence. So, be safe in every aspect of your life.

Continue to take care of each other and thanks for all that you do; day in and day out!  
**BUILDING STRONG!**

# Seamoor, the water safety sea serpent, park rangers talk water safety

Story by Patrick Moes

Two district park rangers were on hand for the May 17 St. Paul Saints home opener to talk about the importance of water safety.

Park Rangers Brad LaBadie and Sara Bellefeuille, both from Eau Galle Recreation

Area in Spring Valley, Wis., passed out coloring books and frisbees during the pregame festivities for military appreciation night. In addition to the rangers, Rick Magee, operations, brought Seamoor, the water safety

sea serpent, to talk to kids about remembering to always wear a life jacket, or personal flotation device, while on the water and always swim with a buddy.

LaBadie said this was his second year participating in the event, and he thought it was a great opportunity to get out the water safety message. "The game is a family atmosphere," he said. "It gives us the opportunity to talk



Photo by Patrick Moes

Park Ranger Sara Bellefeuille talks to Seamoor, the water safety sea serpent, during the St. Paul Saints baseball game May 17 in St. Paul, Minn.

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***"A lot of people that we meet are surprised that the Corps of Engineers has park rangers. I love telling them that the Corps has lots of outdoor recreation activities."***

**-Brad LaBadie, park ranger**

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about being outdoors while being safe."

In addition to talking about safety, LaBadie said he likes attending these types of events because he gets to meet all sorts of interesting people. "A lot of people that we meet are surprised that the Corps of Engineers has park

rangers,” he said. “I love telling them that the Corps has lots of outdoor recreation activities.”

Bellefeuille agreed. She said, “A lot of people don’t realize that we are [park] rangers and that we are with the Corps. One person even thought we were with the Boy Scouts.”

In addition to talking about water safety, Bellefeuille, a recent University of Wisconsin-River Falls graduate, said one of the best parts of her job is the variety that comes with it. “I like to do a lot of different things,” she said, “and every day is something new.”

LaBadie said he enjoys the variety, too. “There are so many things that park rangers do,” he said, “but what I really like is the recreation part of my job. I like just being able to improve the park and to see all of the people enjoying it.”

In addition to the recreation, Bellefeuille said she also does a lot of interpretive work at the park. From nature hikes to tree and insect identification, she said she is frequently giving school-age kids tours and teaching them. “I really like working with the kids and teaching them something they didn’t know.”



(Above) Rick Magee, operations, assists Seamoor, the water safety serpent, during the St. Paul Saints baseball game May 17 in St. Paul, Minn. (Right) Park Ranger Brad LaBadie distributes water safety frisbees during the pregame events.

Photos by Patrick Moes





Photo by Patrick Moes

Seamoor, the water safety sea serpent, talk with kids about the importance of water safety during the St. Paul Saints baseball game May 17 in St. Paul, Minn.

## Water Safety tips

- **Wear your life jacket**
- **Watch out for others on the water**
- **Swim with a buddy**

## Practice Summer Safety

*Editorial by Barry Simmonds, Safety Office*

As we roll into the Memorial Day holiday, I just wanted to put out a quick reminder about some of the more common summer hazards.

**Hazard:** As you travel to a Memorial Day parade or cemetery to honor those who have died in defense of our country, you'll likely share the road with somebody who has been drinking. Or, you may be sharing the road with somebody who has spent far too long driving and should have stopped to sleep or rest.

**Countermeasure:** Watch for these hazards and ensure everyone in your vehicle wears their seatbelt. You cannot always predict what other people will do, but you can take precautions.

**Hazard:** Many people use the long weekend for boating activities. The lakes and rivers still have cold water, and these cold temperatures contribute to many drowning incidents each year.

**Countermeasure:** Many folks believe because they can swim, they don't need to wear a personal flotation device. However, eating and drinking, cold water and current, all play a part in cramping and fatigue. Wear a life jacket at all times when you are on the water.

**Hazard:** Memorial Day is often a time for summer picnics, yard work and games. Over-exertion and muscle strains/sprains are common.

**Countermeasure:** Make sure to warm up and stretch before activities.

**Hazard:** Motorcycles, bicyclists, walkers and kids will all be on the road. Nice weather brings out the masses, and everyone has a right to use the road.

**Countermeasure:** Look, then check again ... It would be nice if everyone wore a bright reflective vest when out, but this rarely happens. It's up to all of us to watch out for everyone.

Our district has done a tremendous job in reducing on-the-job lost and restricted duty accidents during the past few years. However, if you hurt yourself at home, we still lose a valuable team member. Please think about whatever project you are about to start and make sure you protect yourself from the possible hazards. Let's all come back after Memorial Day refreshed and thankful for the sacrifices of those who gave their lives for our country!

# District employees honored for service at luncheon

Story by Patrick Moes

Three district employees were recognized for their service during the 35th Annual Federal Civil Servant of the Year Awards Program and Luncheon in St. Paul, Minn., May 4.

Jim Mosner, engineering and construction; Aaron Snyder, project management; and Annette Vogel, engineering and construction, were selected as the district's three 2012 Civil Servants of the Year.

"These three exemplify the spirit, dedication to mission, and professionalism that continues to help move the district forward from Good to Great," said Col. Michael Price, district commander. "They clearly made a difference this past year, and I am proud to have the opportunity to serve with them."



Photo by Shannon Bauer

From left, Jim Mosner, engineering and construction; Col. Michael Price, district commander; Annette Vogel, engineering and construction; and Aaron Snyder, project management, pose for a photo following the 35th Annual Federal Civil Servants of the Year Program and Luncheon in St. Paul, Minn., May 4.

## Jim Mosner Engineering and Construction

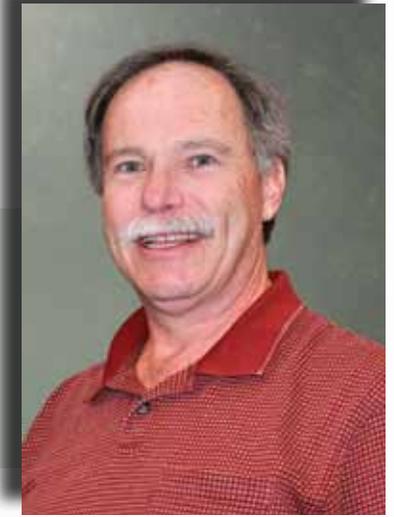


Photo by Stefania Padalino

**Position title:** chief, design branch's civil-site section, engineering and construction division.

**Total Years with St. Paul District/federal government:** 33 years.

**Previous Positions/Employment:** I have worked for the St. Paul District since graduating from college.

**Education:** Master of Civil Engineering and Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, both from University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

**Hobbies:** My past hobby was being a scout leader for 16 years in many roles at the pack, troop, district and council levels. My current hobbies are golf and bowling leagues, webmaster for two engineering society websites and "PhotoShop-ing" old photographs.

**Residence:** Maplewood, Minn.

**Comments:** "It is a humbling honor to be nominated and selected for this award. I have truly appreciated working with all the great people throughout the Corps, and I relish all the interesting challenges and opportunities that seem to come along each and every day."

**Aaron Snyder**  
Project Management



Photo by Stefania Padalino

**Position title:** chief, project management branch in project management division.

**Total Years with St. Paul District/federal government:** 9 years.

**Previous Positions/Employment:** All with Corps of Engineers.

**Education:** Master of Public Policy (focus: International Economic Development), Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Bachelor of Arts Degree in applied economics concentration/computer information science, College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minn.

**Hobbies:** Softball, golf (starting this year), home remodeling (would like to finish this hobby), hunting and watching the Twins.

**Residence:** St. Paul, Minn.

**Comments:** "I am extremely honored to be recognized, however, I could not have been successful without a tremendous team. Each team member has been critical to the overall success. They all stepped up to ensure that the aggressive schedules could be met. I would like to thank all of those team members for their hard work, support and commitment."

**Annette Vogel**  
Engineering and Construction



Photo by Stefania Padalino

**Position title:** program analyst in construction branch, engineering and construction division.

**Total Years with St. Paul District:** 22 years.

**Total Years with federal government:** 31 years.

**Previous Positions/Employment:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Division

**Education:** Master of Arts, Community Ministry Leadership, Bethel Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

**Hobbies:** Writing, biblical studies, art and interior design.

**Residence:** West St. Paul, Minn.

**Comments:** "Receiving such accolades as civil servant of the year is very touching and is quite a humbling experience. I am honored to be in the company of other outstanding recipients and give special thanks to those involved in my nomination."

# Civil works process set to change

Story by Patrick Moes

The famous Greek philosopher Heraclitus is credited with the quote, “The only constant is change,” and change is exactly what the Corps of Engineers is currently doing with its civil works missions.

Last month, the Corps’ headquarters released new guidance on transformation and planning modernization. Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy said, “It is absolutely essential that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers transform its study processes if it is to remain at the forefront of federal agencies the nation turns to when seeking answers for water resources challenges. The current study processes too often leave our stakeholders and the nation waiting for critical answers.”

With an eye toward the future, Aaron Snyder, project management, said he was one of 18 Corps employees that met in 2010 to begin discussing the current civil works process and to develop a sustainable path forward. Snyder said the meeting results really became the foundation for the Corps’ planning modernization effort.

The effort, said Snyder, is not necessarily focused on looking for the perfect solutions to every situation; rather, the goal is to look for solutions that meet the sponsors’ needs.

“It forces the team to think,” said Snyder. “We need to really take a critical thinking approach and realize that we don’t just do something because that is what we’ve done before.”

Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations Maj. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, said, “This transformation initiative will require significant changes to the organization

- Develop reliable methods of assessing the current value and levels of service for our infrastructure systems to determine where to apply the division’s priorities;
- Emphasize the interdependence and interrelationship of the division’s assets within a watershed or system to provide reliable, resilient infrastructure systems that deliver the

- required levels of service;
- Evaluate assets in terms of their value to the nation; and
- Systematically evaluate infrastructure based on its current performance in meeting the original authorized purposes, and how demands within the watershed or system have evolved over time.

## The Corps’ Planning Modernization

One of the key functions for the Corps’ civil works project planning process is to inform Congress as it makes decisions for authorizing and funding water resources

investments for the nation. The planning modernization effort is focused on improving the processes and products that support timely and sound decisions regarding our nation’s water resources needs.

## Progressive Planning Process

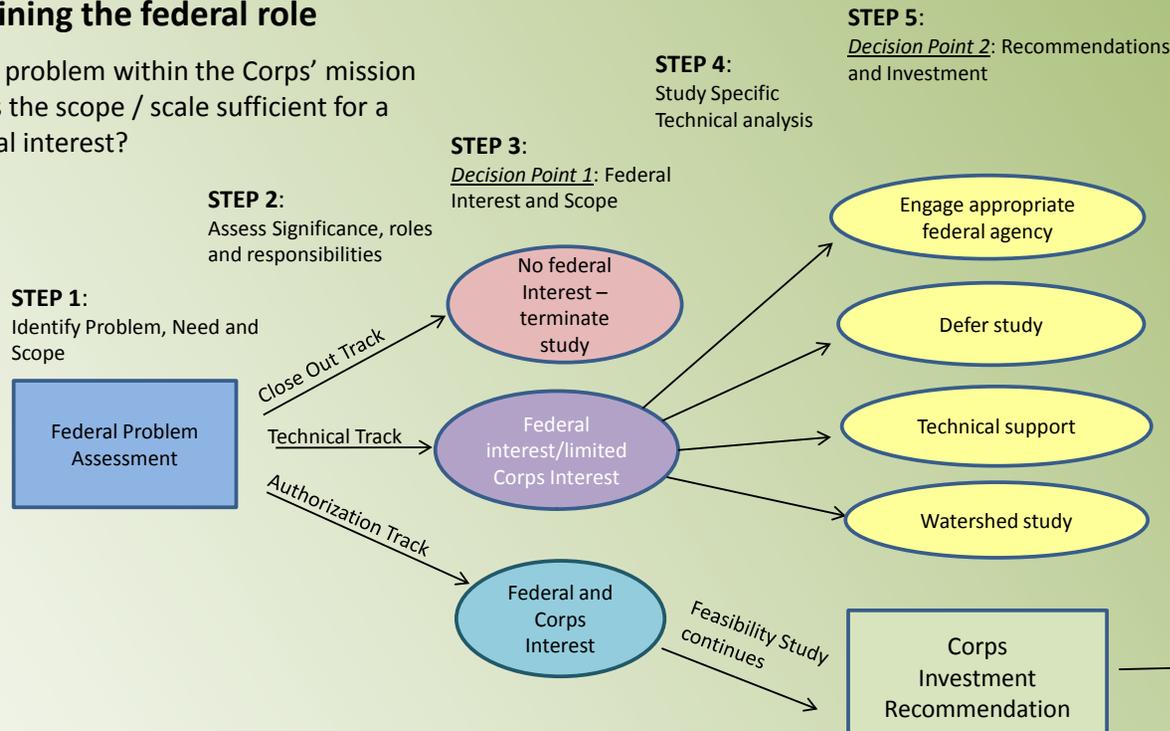


and its culture, including important changes in planning strategies, business practice, and existing relationships and partnerships – both internal and external.”

The infrastructure transformation will:

## Defining the federal role

Is the problem within the Corps' mission and is the scope / scale sufficient for a federal interest?



Craig Evans, planning, said the modernization changes are no longer business as usual. One of the major changes will occur in the first year of new process. "A major part of the first year will be spent determining if there is any federal and local sponsorship interest in the project," he said.

Some measures under the planning modernization effort include the 3x3x3 rule:

- All feasibility studies will be scoped with a target goal of completion within three years;
- The target cost for a feasibility study will be no greater than \$3 million;
- The study team will use all three levels of the vertical team;
- The target length for the main report of the feasibility study will be 100 pages or less; and
- Any schedule or budget exceeding these guidelines will require Corps' headquarters

approval.

Evans said the challenge to planners will be learning to accept certain risks. "You end up having to accept risk, if you want to shorten the planning process," he said. "The vertical team will have to decide how much risk the Corps will accept." The vertical team is an intergraded decision/risk-taking team that includes members from the district, division and headquarters.

While acknowledging that every project will be slightly different, Snyder said the 3x3x3 rule will help people think more critically about the issues. The rule will also help identify potential risks earlier in the planning process. Snyder said planners now need to develop a risk register in the planning process. Previously, it was done as a cost estimate. The change could impact the Corps' decision on a project earlier

in the process, said Snyder.

## Civil Works Budget Transformation

A key element in the Corps' transformation of its civil works program is the change to its civil works budget development by focusing on national goals and objectives, and developing a comprehensive infrastructure strategy that prioritizes investments based on an evaluation of project value and level of service provided.

The civil works budget focuses on the construction, operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of major navigation, flood risk management and hydropower infrastructure, as well as environmental mitigation and natural resources restoration. As the infrastructure has aged and deteriorated, the funding to address these issues has decreased. These factors place a severe strain on the Corps' ability to fully ensure the safety of the infrastructure, maintain the infrastructure to meet performance goals and efficiently provide the economic and environmental benefits for which projects were designed and constructed. As a result, a new approach to budgeting for the civil works program is essential to address 21st century needs.

The new budgeting approach will:

- Establish a program-based, goal-focused method to budgeting;
- Establish a vertical mapping/alignment of programs/business lines to national goals and objectives;
- Improve the justification and defense of budget allocations; and
- Incorporate integrated water resource management concepts into systems thinking and investments.

*Mississippi Valley Division Public Affairs Office contributed to this article*

# Regulatory manager uses leadership, time management to get the job done

Story by Bianca Jones

Growing up in a Detroit suburb within a declining city, Tim Smith, regulatory, said he still found ways to have fun.

As the middle child between two brothers, Smith said he had his share of the usual teenage activities, such as going camping in northern Michigan, and sneaking out at night without his parents' consent. "I ran from the law," he joked.

Despite his occasional mischievous actions, Smith revealed that his biggest passion growing up was soccer. "Most of my free time consisted of playing soccer so that was my 'thing' as a kid," he said. Working hard, Smith played soccer for a number of years to include playing competitively at the collegiate level.

Smith admitted

that his work ethic was modeled after his father's. "My mom always said that my two brothers and I are just like our dad in terms of working hard and doing what needs to be done to get the job done," he said.

Before beginning his career with the Corps,

Smith worked in the private sector but left because he said he wanted to be in a decision-making position associated with environmental projects. "My approach to the job is that you have to keep in mind that we work for the public, so we must make sure that whatever

we do has benefits to the public and [provides] public service," he said.

Smith's public-oriented mindset is why Barbara Walther, regulatory, said he's a great employee to work with. "His ability to see the way things ought to be done, and his willingness to help everyone is great," she said. She has worked with him for four years, and she said she believes that he pushes her to continually do her best. "He's all about empowerment so that you have the opportunity to



Photo by Bianca Jones

**Tim Smith, left, regulatory, talks about regulatory permits with Jill Bathke, regulatory, at the district headquarters in St. Paul, Minn., May 21.**

handle [problems] on your own," she said.

Smith said that when it comes to managing employees, he understands that every individual is unique and has their own way of getting things done. "It's my job to understand what their individual styles are and try to get the most out of recognizing what their strengths and weaknesses are," he added.

Smith said he's learned a lot about leadership since he began working for the Corps more

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***"I love being a dad, they will look up to you no matter what, and think you're the greatest thing in the world, until they know better."***

**-Tim Smith, regulatory**

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than 15 years ago. During his tenure, he said he has had many experiences in the regulatory world, beginning with the Los Angeles District in 1997, where he worked in the environmental resources branch. From there, he moved to the Corps Wilmington District in Wilmington, N.C., in 2001, where he began his work in regulatory. In 2003, Smith moved again, and he began working at the St. Paul District where he served as a regulatory project manager for a year until he began a new position as the enforcement compliance coordinator. Last fall, Smith became chief of the technical support section. In this capacity, Smith manages technical specialists in regulatory branch and is

the Minnesota state program manager.

Smith's sense of humor is also another reason Walther said she believes he is a great supervisor. "His work ethic, combined with a sense of humor, makes for the best combination of a colleague and supervisor one could ask for," she said.

#### **Meeting Style**

Smith has been through his share of rough meetings. Those experiences have molded him into a more efficient meeting leader, he said. "I think the way I run [meetings] today is a reflection of my experiences working in different parts of the Corps," he said.

He suggested that one of the key aspects to effect meeting management is providing all the people attending an agenda and background material to prepare. Then, when you actually bring employees together, "You know what needs to be discussed, you know where you're trying to go by the end of meeting, and you get there as efficiently as you can."

Smith said he believes that you must keep the discussion focused on what you're there for. If



*Photo by Bianca Jones*

**Tim Smith, regulatory, reviews technical documents at the district headquarters in St. Paul, Minn., May 21.**

people go on a tangent, it's your responsibility to bring them back. "We need to try to be as efficient as we can with the processes we take part in and the decisions we make."

Effective time management and decision-making abilities allow Smith to focus on something he truly loves doing away from his work. When Smith isn't working, he's spending time with his two young sons. "I love being a dad," he said. "They will look up to you no matter what, and think you're the greatest thing in the world, until they know better," he joked.

# Book offers insight into district's first commander

Editorial by Rick Magee

*"Happiness Is Not My Companion": The Life of General G.K. Warren* is a book by David M. Jordan, attorney and historian.

This is an interesting, well researched and annotated biography of the Soldier and engineer who became the first district engineer in St. Paul, Minn.

Gouverneur Kemball Warren was from Cold Spring, N.Y., not far from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., from which he graduated second in his class of 45 in 1850. He was commissioned an officer of the Corps of Topographic Engineers. The early years of his career were spent surveying the Mississippi River, exploring and mapping possible railroad routes west of the Missouri River and teaching mathematics at West Point.

Following the outbreak of the Civil War, then Lt. Warren was elected lieutenant colonel of the Fifth New York Regiment of Volunteers. The new, acting regimental commander ably organized and trained the regiment, before leading them into battle at Big Bethel on June 10, 1861. Warren's brevet, or temporary, rank and area of responsibility rose during the war from commanding one regiment to commanding the II Corps of the Army of the Potomac as a major general.

General Warren's intelligence, eye for topography and understanding of military

tactics were both a blessing and a curse. His most famous engagement was at Little Round Top near Gettysburg, Pa. Warren climbed this hill, recognized that if the advancing Confederates reached its summit they would be able to roll up the entire line of the Union soldiers, and he quickly diverted nearby federal troops to take the hill just before the arrival of the Confederates. This action to defend this little hill resulted in Warren's promotion to the rank of brevet major general and represented the high point of his career.



By 1865, Warren commanded the V Corps, Army of the Potomac. He was beloved by his men and disliked by many other officers who grew tired of him questioning their plans and orders. Unfortunately,

these officers included Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Maj. Gen. Phillip Henry Sheridan.

Warren's command came to an end just a few days before Lee's surrender. Sheridan relieved Warren of his command during the Battle of Five Forks in early April 1865. Sheridan accused Warren of being slow to bring up his men, of not following orders and of a lack of personal bravery. This stain on Warren's integrity and honor haunted him for the rest of his life.

Following the war, Warren was assigned to St. Paul, Minn. He arrived on Aug. 17,

1866, as a major in the Corps of Engineers with responsibility to survey the Minnesota, Wisconsin and upper Mississippi rivers and oversee the construction of a double-deck drawbridge between Rock Island, Ill., and Davenport, Iowa. He wrote his wife that the mosquitos were bad, "I don't think you would like this place at all, to stop in." The author said Warren was a thorough, conscientious and capable engineer, and the work he did in the American west in the years after the war was well regarded by his superiors in Washington, by the civilians with whom he came in contact and by his peers.

Warren was transferred to Newport, R.I., in 1870 where he remained for the remainder of his life. While there, Warren oversaw work on breakwaters, harbor improvements, piers and docks along Long Island Sound and the southern New England Coast. He served on various commissions and boards. However, the work that Warren devoted much of his spare time to was defending his record at Five Forks before a military tribunal.

Warren died Aug. 8, 1882, of diabetes and, as his friends said, a broken heart. He is buried in Newport. The report of the court of inquiry that he had worked so hard to secure was not released until the following November. It vindicated Warren, and posthumously restored his honor and reputation for his widow and family.

The book is available in the St. Paul District library and the ISBN number is 9780253339041.

## Editor's Note

Do you have news you want to share with the district? Send your announcements of births, weddings, graduations, etc., to *Crosscurrents*. [cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil](mailto:cemvp-pa@usace.army.mil).

## Newcomers

**Keith Asheim**, engineering technician, engineering and construction, Fargo, N.D.  
**Carolyn Dahlquist**, automation clerk, project management, district office.  
**Diane Forsberg**, student trainee, operations, Fargo, N.D.  
**Jessica Grinnell**, student trainee, operations, Grand Rapids, Minn.  
**Christopher Hanson**, engineering technician, engineering and construction, Fargo, N.D.  
**Brendan Hart**, student trainee, operations, Valley City, N.D.  
**Jennifer Hitchcock**, student trainee, resource management, district office.  
**Jessica Jones**, student trainee, operations, Spring Valley, Wis.  
**Alexander Lindstrom**, engineering technician, engineering and construction, Fargo, N.D.  
**Nicholas Lorenz**, student trainee, operations, Fountain City, Wis.  
**Zachary Montreuil**, student trainee, operations, Brainerd, Minn.  
**Emma Nelson**, student trainee, operations, Valley City, N.D.  
**Gary Ogren**, engineering technician, engineering and construction, district office.  
**Megan Sleeper**, student trainee, operations, Spring Valley, Wis.  
**Scott Thorson**, student trainee, operations, DeSoto, Wis.  
**Cole Van Beusekom**, student trainee, operations, Crosslake, Minn.  
**Jesse Westphal**, student trainee, operations, McGregor, Minn.

## District completes Tolna Coulee construction

The district completed construction of the Tolna Coulee Control Structure in Tolna, N.D., May 22.

The project began a little more than one year ago with the planning phase. The 800-foot wide structure is designed to regulate the amount of water that would flow through the coulee. Completion of this project eliminates the threat of catastrophic flooding along the Sheyenne River if Devils Lake were to exceed 1,458 feet above sea level. According to the National Weather Service, the current lake level is 1,453.24 feet.

"The Tolna Coulee project will prevent catastrophic flows should the lake rise 5 more feet and overflow into the Sheyenne River basin," said Bill Csajko, project management. "Without the project, downstream communities would have had the potential threat of flows twice as large as the greatest historic flows on the Sheyenne River."

The Corps accepted the project from its contractor this week and will turn over the project to the North Dakota State Water Commission for the operation and maintenance in the near future. The Corps is finalizing the operation and maintenance manual and the design documentation report, which includes the as-built drawings and any design changes that may have occurred during the construction process.

## Congratulations



**Adèle Braun**, received the Corps' inaugural 2012 Value Engineering "Rising Star" Award.